

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Oliver Winzenried et al.

Application No.: 10/584,788

Confirmation No.: 5003

Filed: December 30, 2004

Art Unit: 3621

For: AUTHORIZATION CODE RECOVERING
METHOD

Examiner: J. C. Coppola

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 -10. Cancelled.

11. (Currently amended) A method for restoring an authorization code assigned to a licensee by a licensor to a dongle connected to a first computer of the licensee via an interface, said method comprising:

~~reading license~~ storing in a file parameters associated with the licensor ~~belonging to the licensor, but not storing in the file the authorization code; from a security~~ the file, being stored on the first computer to which the dongle is attached, the security file belonging to the authorization code and containing the license parameters but does not contain the authorization code;

sending the ~~read license~~ parameters to a second computer;

after sending the license parameters, receiving an authorization code at the first computer in a ~~device-specific~~ format that can be ~~read~~ interpreted only by the dongle ~~but and~~ not by the licensee computer; and

storing the authorization code in the dongle connected to the first computer.

12. Cancelled.

13. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the license parameters are signed with time information for protection and are provided stored at least partially in encrypted form in the security file.

14. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 11, further comprising:
receiving from the first computer to which the dongle is attached the ~~license~~ parameters at the second computer;
evaluating the license parameters; and
deciding with the second computer whether or not to return to the first computer the requested authorization code ~~should be returned to the first computer~~.

15. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 11, further comprising:
communicating time information stored in the security file from the first computer to the second computer;
evaluating the time information at the second computer; and
generating an authorization code ~~corresponding to~~ based on the time information.

16. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein several authorization codes for licenses, one for each of a plurality of several licensors[[.]] are stored on the dongle.

17. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising establishing remote data connections ~~are established~~ to a computer associated with each of the several licensors, in order to permit the corresponding authorization codes to be restored.

18. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 11, further comprising:
establishing a remote data connection between the first computer and a central management computer;
sending the security file from the first computer to the management computer; and
establishing a data connection between the second computer and the management computer.

19. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 18, further comprising:
establishing a remote data connection between the first computer and the second computer for communicating the authorization code from the second computer to the first computer.

20. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 11, characterized in that the security file contains an unmodifiable serial number of the dongle and said method further comprising:

- reading the serial number from the security file;
- sending the serial number to a management computer; and
- storing the serial number in a block list at the management computer.

21. (Currently amended) A method for restoring an authorization code assigned to a licensee by a licensor, ~~with the authorization code being stored in a dongle, which is connected to a computer of the licensee via an interface, characterized in that the computer of the licensee storing a security file, which belongs~~ is associated with ~~to the authorization code and which contains the license parameters but does not contain the authorization code, is stored on the computer of the licensee, and~~ said method comprising:

- reading of the license parameters associated with the license ~~belonging to the licensor~~ from the security file;
- sending the read license parameters to a computer of a licensor ~~the licensor~~;
- receiving the license parameters at a the computer of the licensor;
- evaluating the license parameters at the computer of the licensor;
- in response to receiving the license parameters, restoring the authorization code corresponding to the received license parameters at the computer of the licensor;
- returning the restored authorization code to the computer of the licensee in a ~~device-specific~~ format that ~~is specific to the dongle and that cannot be read~~ interpreted by the computer of the licensee; and
- storing the restored authorization code on the dongle connected to the computer of the licensee in the ~~device-specific~~ format.

22. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 21, wherein the license parameters are signed with time information ~~for protection~~ and are provided at least partially in encrypted form in the security file.

23. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 21, further comprising:
- sending time information stored in the security file to the licensor;
 - evaluating the time information by the licensor; and

generating an authorization code corresponding to the time information.

24. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 21, wherein several authorization codes for licenses of several licensors are stored on the data-processing device.

25. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 21, wherein remote data connections are established to computers for the several licensors, in order to permit the corresponding authorization codes to be restored.

26. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 21, further comprising:
establishing a remote data connection between the computer of the licensee and a central management computer;
sending the security file to the management computer; and
establishing a data connection between the computer of the licensor and the management computer.

27. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 26, further comprising:
establishing a remote data connection between the computer of the licensee and the computer of the licensor.

28. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 21, wherein the security file contains an unmodifiable serial number of the data-processing device and said method includes the steps of:

reading the serial number from the security file;
sending the serial number to a management computer; and
storing the serial number in a block list at a management computer.

29. (Withdrawn) A method for restoring an authorization code assigned to a licensee by a licensor, with the authorization code being stored in an access-protected data-processing device, which is connected to a computer of the licensee via an interface, characterized in that a security file, which belongs to the authorization code and which contains the license parameters, is stored on the computer of the licensee and includes an unmodifiable serial number of the data processing device, and said method including the following steps of:

reading of the license parameters belonging to the licensor from the security file;
sending the read license parameters to the licensor;
restoring the authorization code corresponding to the received license parameters at the
licensor;
returning the restored authorization code to the computer of the licensee;
storing the restored authorization code in the data-processing device connected to the
computer of the licensee;
establishing a remote data connection between the computer of the licensee and a
management computer;
sending the security file to the management computer;
establishing a data connection between the computer of the licensor and the management
computer;
reading the serial number from the security file;

sending the serial number to the management computer; and
storing the serial number in a block list at the management computer.

30. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 29, further including the steps of:
sending time information stored in the security file to the licensor;
evaluating the time information by the licensor; and
generating an authorization code corresponding to the time information.

31. (Canceled) ~~The method according to claim 11, wherein the security file on the licensee's computer does not include the authorization code.~~

32. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the authorization code is storable only on the access-protected data processing device.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the security file does not store the authorization code.

34. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium storing instructions that, when read by a computer, cause the computer to execute a process for restoring an authorization code

assigned to a licensee by a licensor to a dongle that is connected to a computer of the licensee via an interface, the method comprising:

reading of license parameters from a file associated with, but not containing, the authorization code ~~containing the license parameters~~, the security file being stored on the computer of the licensee ~~but not containing the authorization code~~;

sending with the computer of the licensee the read license parameters to a computer of licensor;

receiving with the computer of the licensee the restored authorization code in a ~~device-specific~~ format that can be ~~read~~ interpreted by the dongle but not by the computer of the licensee; and

storing the restored authorization code on the dongle in the ~~device-specific~~ format.

35. Cancelled.

36. (Currently amend 1) The computer readable medium of claim 34, wherein the license parameters are signed with time information for protection and are provided at least partially in encrypted form in the security file.

37. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 34, wherein the process further comprises sending time information stored in the security file to the computer of the licensor.

ed

38. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 34, wherein a plurality of codes for licenses of several licensors are stored on the dongle.

39. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 38, wherein remote data connections are established to computers for each of the several licensors, in order to permit the corresponding authorization codes to be restored.

40. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 34, wherein sending with the computer of the licensee the read license parameters further comprises:

establishing a remote data connection between the computer of the licensee and a central management computer; and

sending the security file to the management computer, the management computer establishing a data connection between the computer of the licensor and the management computer.

41. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 34, wherein sending with the computer of the licensee the read license parameters further comprises:

establishing a remote data connection between the computer of the licensee and a computer of the licensor.

42. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 34, wherein the security file contains an unmodifiable serial number of the data-processing device and said process further comprises:

reading the serial number from the security file; and
sending the serial number to a management computer.

43. (New) A method for restoring an authorization code assigned to a licensee by a licensor, said method comprising:

storing in a file on the first computer parameters read from a first dongle that is connected to a first computer used the licensee via an interface, the parameters being associated with a license from the licensor to the licensee;

upon the dongle becoming lost or defective, sending the parameters to a second computer;
after sending the license parameters, receiving an authorization code at the first computer in a format that can be interpreted only by the dongle and not by the licensee computer; and
storing the authorization code in a new dongle connected to the first computer.